

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Russell Vought
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Vought,

In wake of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we write to share our great concern with the increased cost associated with both the current and anticipated influx of patients at Department of Veteran Affairs and Department of Defense medical facilities across North Carolina. As the representatives of thousands of veterans and active duty service members, we are urging you to consider specific funding for this unique population and include it in any request for additional appropriations from Congress.

As the volume in patients continues to increase and medical facilities become stretched to their capacity, we know our veterans and service members will continue to receive the best care possible. However, we want to make sure Congress is providing adequate funding so this increased cost does not impact readiness.

While H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, provided \$82 million for the Department of Defense and \$60 million for the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, we are concerned that as the virus spreads this will be insufficient to cover treatment costs for these populations. For any forthcoming funding request pertaining to COVID-19, we ask that you ensure our veterans and active duty service members have the resources necessary. We as a nation have already asked so much from our active duty service members, their families, and veterans and ask that you continue to deliver on our promise to care for them.

We as a nation need to come together now to fight the COVID-19 outbreak and we look forward to working with you to ensure veterans and active duty service members will have the resources they need during this public health emergency. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Members of Congress also supporting this letter:

Rep. George Holding
Rep. Ted Budd
Rep. David Rouzer
Rep. Patrick McHenry
Rep. Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.